CHAPTER XXII

GEOWTH OF NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

(1) THE JEWISH PRESS

A SENSE of unity could not be preserved among the Jews scattered over many countries without the regular news service between them now supplied by the Jewish press, *i.e.* periodicals and newspapers written by Jews for Jews. The general press can spare but little space for Jewish affairs, and publishes items about them casually and unsystematically, while the Jewish press sets out to report on everything which concerns the Jews at home and abroad, discusses Jewish problems, and tries to defend Jewish interests where they are threatened. The importance of the Jewish press in a country can serve as measure of the interest which its Jews take in Jewish affairs. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, started in London after the War as a private undertaking, keeps up a news service in all the more important countries, and supplies the press with Jewish news.

Poland, the United States, and Palestine are now the centres of the Jewish press. In 1929 there appeared in Poland, according to official Polish statistics, 127 periodicals in Yiddish and 19 in Hebrew; the number of

Jewish periodicals published in Polish was not given. Only 27 periodicals in Yiddish and Hebrew had been started before 1925, while 34 in Yiddish and 6 in Hebrew were started in 1929; in the same year no fewer than 78 Yiddish and 11 Hebrew periodicals stopped publication. A good many among them thus proved short-lived, while their small number before the War was due to the difficulties under which journalism